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Letter dated 4 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference, issued on 3 August 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands to the United Nations

04-46475 (E) 230804

Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference, issued on 3 August 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the outcome of the IGAD ministerial meeting in Nairobi on 30 July, at which was announced the conclusion of the process of appointing members of a transitional federal parliament.

The European Union commends the efforts of Somali leaders in achieving this significant outcome and calls upon them to ensure that the same spirit of positive cooperation prevails during the remainder of the reconciliation process. It welcomes in particular the cohesiveness shown by IGAD member States and their resolve to adopt a common approach based on political consensus.

The European Union reassures all parties involved in the process of its continued commitment and reiterates its support for the challenges confronting Somalia in the coming months.

The European Union appeals to all parties to continue their engagement with the aim of establishing:

- An inclusive government committed to furthering stability and to constructive dialogue with all Somalis, including with existing areas of tranquillity.
- A government whose members are committed to an effective ceasefire and to the creation of a stable national environment, including the eradication of any possible terrorist activity.
- A government which works for humanitarian access across Somalia and for the protection of civilians.
- A government that works with commitment towards a federal Somalia by establishing a federal commission as stated in the Transitional Federal Charter.
- A government which cooperates with the international community on the basis of an agreement and a joint coordination and monitoring mechanism to be finalized in Nairobi.

The European Union stands ready to continue to assist the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference and urges it to continue in its efforts to reach an early and positive conclusion.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Croatia,* Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

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* Croatia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.